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"THE NATIONALIZATION OF INDUSTRY AND THE PROMOTION OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF HUMANITY."—*Constitution of the Nationalist Club, Boston, Mass.*

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The Great French Centennial	<i>Cyrus Field Willard</i>
Our Prospective Sovereigns	<i>Edward Bellamy</i>
The Souls of the Children (Poem)	<i>Charles Mackey</i>
The Wastefulness of Competition	<i>Edward H. Sanborn</i>
Can We Popularize Absolute Justice?	<i>S. W. Foss</i>
De Profundis (Poem)	<i>Chester Wood</i>
Stinted Production	<i>Hon. Jesse Cox</i>
Want (Poem)	<i>George N. Miller</i>
Why the Name, Nationalism?	<i>Sylvester Baxter</i>
Mastodon-Saurus (Poem)	<i>Henry Willard Austin</i>
. Editorial Notes	
News of the Movement	Steps on the Road
. Reviews	

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WHY THE NAME, NATIONALISM?

Edward Everett Hale, whose life-long devotion to causes which the Nationalist movement now concretes, makes him indeed, one of its most honored and eminent pioneers, has recently found some fault with the name, as not sufficiently indicative of the principles involved.

Let us then consider the word inscribed upon our standard, and endeavor to show our good friend and great follower, Dr. Hale, and perhaps other good friends who may not have pondered the matter as long as we, that our word is the aptest we could have chosen. In the first place, we wanted a name that would appeal to all, because our movement, unlike socialism as commonly understood, is not a class movement, but for the whole country. After reforming here we shall be stronger to reform the world. This practical idea was clearly in Bellamy's mind when he wrote our great book. He says there: "It was not till a rearrangement of the industrial and social system on a higher ethical basis, and for the more efficient production of wealth, was recognized as the interest, not of one class, but equally of all classes, of rich and poor, cultured and ignorant, old and young, weak and strong, men and women, that there was any prospect that it would be achieved. Then the *National party* arose to carry it out by political methods. It probably took that name because its aim was to nationalize the functions of production and distribution. Indeed, it could not well have had any other name, for its purpose was *to realize the idea of the nation* with a grandeur and completeness never before conceived, not as an association of men for certain merely political functions affecting their happiness only remotely and superficially, but as a family, a vital union, a common life, a mighty heaven-touching tree whose leaves are its people, fed from its veins, and feeding it in turn. *The most patriotic of all possible parties*, it sought to justify patriotism and raise it from an instinct to a rational devotion, by making the native land truly a father-land, a father who kept the people alive and was not merely an idol for whom they were expected to die."

Does not this definition by Mr. Bellamy justify most nobly the name as the most appropriate that could have been chosen? The designations of the two prominent existing parties, Republican and Democratic, are neither of them distinctly characteristic; either might with equal appropriateness be borne by one party or the other. A name should inherently convey the character of the thing or principle behind it. Other

names, suggested by our principles, are defective in this regard. "Collectivism," for instance, is too abstract, and lacks inspiring associations. "Socialism," on the other hand, whether justly or unjustly, is too suggestive in its associations; and to assume the dead-weight of the numerous prejudices which the word conveys in the mind of the general public — partly through the injudicious and often violent course of its followers, and partly through the lack of definiteness and consequent indiscriminate application to diverse and conflicting purposes — might handicap us heavily in the endeavor to rehabilitate and popularize it. The name conveys the impression, also, of limitations to "social" conditions, rather than applications to national and industrial or economic affairs; and it arouses mistrust and opposition through inference of intention to interfere with the more intimate concerns of society, such as family relations and the like. Moreover, and most important, socialism, as defined by its ablest exponents in this country, still clings to compromises with the old order, and would retain distinctions and gradations which must be abolished, else the evils now dominant would inevitably spring up again with all their baneful effects.

Nationalism, however, has no such drawback. More radical than socialism in its ideas, it differentiates itself further by being more conservative in its methods of applying them. Then, too, the associations of the word, Nationalism, are as lofty and inspiring as they are vital and definite. It would be hardly possible to stigmatize popularly a term so eminent; and a movement that gives an honor, a service and a comprehensiveness to national functions, will exalt nationality as never before in the public mind. Even in the infancy of our movement this is already perceptible by the way in which the name has taken popular hold.

There is, however, a seeming logical objection in the subordinate application of our principles to municipal conditions, such as in the local public control and ownership of functions and services like water-works, illuminating and heating supplies, etc. But it should be remembered that these are important *steps* towards the nationalization of industry; for, with the complete realization of our system, the only essential political entities, beside the inclusive nation, would be the municipalities, to which the exercise of local functions would of course be delegated; just as functions of self-help are now partially delegated to them by the various federative commonwealths, whose lines in turn are being gradually and surely effaced by the closer relation of the mass to the nation.

SYLVESTER BAXTER.